

Time travel

Group works to preserve automotive history in area

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Since the early 1900s, automobiles of various makes and models have traveled down assembly lines throughout Metro Detroit and onto roads nationwide. Now, a group of citizens is stepping up their campaign to have visitors and locals alike understand the historical significance the areas around them played in the evolution of the car.

According to Nancy Darga, chief steward of the MotorCities Automobile Heritage Area, simple curiosity sparked the first wave of action. After she had worked for Wayne County for 25 years in downtown Detroit, Darga learned that she was going to be transferred to the Nankin Mills building in Westland. Funding cuts had shut down the former nature center, and she found her new office without power or water and with boards nailed across the windows. Despite the rundown appearance, she was hooked.

"I started asking questions about it," she said. "It was a grist-mill in the 1800s and Henry (Ford) bought it because he used to bring his father's wheat there when he was a little boy. He made it one of his first village industry plants and they made automobile parts

there."

Darga said that she began to realize that there were similar sites throughout the area that were also facing destruction due to neglect, lack of funding, or disinterest.

"I got wind of the fact that they wanted to tear down the mills," said Darga. "I thought that would be very sad because they were such a unique part of American history—it would be like trying to bulldoze Bunker Hill."

She partnered with Don Werling, then the director of the Henry Ford Fairlane Estate in Dearborn, to save the threatened mills. In 1989, they received a grant from the state to create the Ford Heritage Trail, which guided tours toward several key locations—including the mills. While the tours began as a virtual who's who of abandoned buildings, things began to change quickly as people learned more about the history in their back yards.

"Once we told everybody how important that part of our history was, people started renovating the mills," said Darga. The Friends of Nankin Mills group, for instance, helped to raise money for the facility as well as its reopening as a nature center. Phoenix Mill in Northville Township became a



The Old Phoenix Mill on the border of Northville and Plymouth townships, was once a factory that only hired women during World War II. Currently used by Wayne County to house salt and other road materials, it could be the site of a museum in the future. It's a part of the MotorCities Automobile Heritage Area.

maintenance yard for the Wayne County Road Commission, and the Northville Mill was reopened as an office space.

While the changes were reassuring to the supporters of the grassroots effort, they weren't enough. Werling and Darga went before Congress several times in an attempt to have the metro area recognized nationally as one of the 23 heritage areas in the United States. Finally, in 1998 they got their wish—national and international recognition for the role Detroit and the car has played throughout the years.

"Ironically, the international community is very interested in us, and hopefully our own people will become more aware," she said. "The real challenge for us has always been to make our own peo-

ple aware of how we put the world on wheels—and how we actually changed the way the world functions."

It isn't the auto industry itself that fascinates her so much as it is the impact that industry had on the lives of the people around it.

"When you talk about the evolution of the auto industry, you have to remember that men gave up their lives on the Miller Road Bridge in Dearborn fighting for workers' rights," said Darga. "It was a very, very world-changing event that took place here when the unions won. It changed forever the concept of workers' rights. You weren't a servant of an industry—you were a part of the industry."

During World War II Phoenix Mill—which hired only women—provided the country with women

who took their place as Rosie the Riveter in the munitions factories at Willow Run Airport during the duration of the war.

While the group is currently partnered with communities stretching from Windsor through the Irish Hills—including area towns like Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Wayne, and Westland—they are still trying to branch out even further in an attempt to offer a broader, more accurate glimpse of the past.

For now, they have set their sights on wayside signs that will help give travelers a better idea what roles the historic buildings they target played in the nation's history.

For more information, visit www.experienceeverythingauto-motive.org.

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A conversation with... Greg Laurain

Andrea King
Staff Writer

If there's one thing that Sgt. Greg Laurain from the Van Buren Township Police Department learned during his 10 weeks of training at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Academy, it was never say "no comment" to a reporter.

"The number one point they told us in our mass media class was to always give them something and make sure it's the truth," he said.

But after advanced investigative and management classes, along with weekly fitness training, Laurain brought a lot more information than that back to the department. He, along with 243 officers from 49 states, the District of Columbia, 28 international countries and several military organizations, recently graduated from the academy program in Quantico, Virginia.

"This is something that I've always wanted to accomplish in my career," said Laurain.

"We were very fortunate to have a member of our department represent us for this very prestigious training opportunity," said Gerry Champagne, public safety director for the township. "I had the opportunity to attend the graduation for Sgt. Laurain and it was clear to me he did an outstanding job representing the Van Buren Township Police Department and our profession."

Laurain's training was not as a field agent, but concentrated on managerial skills. The program is provided by FBI academy instructional staff, special agents and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

"The three things they promote are: networking with other agencies, academics and physical fitness," said Laurain. "Overall it was great and I recommend it to any law enforcement officer."

But, only a small percentage of people get the opportunity, he said. On an average, officers who attend the FBI academy have 19 years of experience in law enforcement. The average wait to be invited to attend the academy is four years.

"Only six people from Michigan got to attend this year, so when it comes up, you better take it," he said.

Laurain was more than ready.

In 1982, he joined the Van Buren Township Police force as a part-time reserve. Since the department was only part-time then, he also worked as a paramedic. Laurain quickly moved up the ranks becoming a full-time officer and then a



Gerry Champagne, public safety director for Van Buren Township, (left) was able to witness Sgt. Greg Laurain (right) graduate from the FBI academy. Laurain was the first employee from the department to be invited to the academy.

What is the best piece of advice you received from the FBI academy?

The stress of knowledge through education and the law enforcement field.

What was your favorite part of the experience?

Ethics class, because it dealt with contemporary issues of law enforcement, which plays a big part of how people think of the police.

What is the most common misconception that people have of the FBI?

That people can solve crimes in 24-hours.

What are you most proud of in your law enforcement career?

That I've been afforded the opportunity to be very diverse in the agency, which has made me a better asset to this police department.

What do you like most about your job?

Being the commander of the Western Wayne County Special Operations team for the third year.

Most people don't know....

That I have a normal life. Cops are people, too. I happen to have a job that I really like and that helps to make a difference in the community.

My childhood dream was to be a...

Doctor, but the closest I ever got was a paramedic.

sergeant of investigations, his current rank.

He has also been a part of the Western Wayne County Special Operations Team, which represents Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Wayne, Westland, Romulus and Inkster, for more than 18 years. Currently, he serves as the group commander.

"During my 22 years with the department I've had the opportunity to do many things so I feel very lucky," he said. "I've always had an eye for police work and at an early age I had to make the decision of a career change. Van Buren Township gave me that opportunity to do so. I knew it was my calling."

Laurain wouldn't reveal any of the secrets that the FBI taught, but he did say the organization is not as secretive as people perceive it to be.

"The perception that comes from TV shows and movies are sensationalized. The role of the FBI is now more focused on terrorism. It's just the nature of the job," he said. "We learned that problems within a police department are the same everywhere, just on a different scale, no matter what size the agency."

Now, Laurain said he wants to bring back his experience to the Van Buren Township Police Department, where he is the first one to receive this training.

"It has made me more well-rounded and knowledgeable for the department," said Laurain. "Through this experience I have created a network of people around the world. I hope that others will be able to participate in the FBI program. It's nice to have that persona in the department."

Golf outing raises money for drug prevention activities

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The 17th annual Romulus Mayor's Drug Task Force Golf Outing is planned for July 8 – and city officials are hoping residents will sign up to help keep others from using drugs.

The outing will take place at 8 a.m. at the Shady Hollow Golf Course on Wayne Road in Romulus.

Last year, the effort generated \$15,000 for various drug prevention activities in the city. The outing is sponsored by the Mayor's Drug Task Force – a group of residents, community leaders and elected officials that works year-round to reduce the

societal effects of substance abuse.

Several opportunities are available to help the cause: Sponsorships that include signage at each hole are available for a cost of \$500 to \$250, depending on the hole.

Beverage cart sponsorship is available for \$300, and those that cannot attend the golf portion of the event can stop by and have dinner for \$50.

The cost of participating in the outing is \$85, which includes lunch and dinner. Pre-registration is required.

Applications can be picked up at city hall. For more information, call Kristin Irwin at (734) 955-4131.

Tax - Investment equals \$3.2 million

FROM PAGE 1

The last time the city granted a 12-year abatement was in 1998, when General Motors asked for one. But even if the abatement is granted for only six years, it will be beneficial to the company and its workers, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

During six years, the company will save about \$246,000 in tax dollars, according to estimates by City Assessor Julie Albert.

Job loss in the manufacturing sector has drained high-paying jobs from the city during the past several years. Recent state estimates indicate that about 185,000 jobs have been lost.

Downtown - City's identity in focus

FROM PAGE 1

ger ones. There will be concrete walks along Goddard and Hunt, connecting the pavilion to the historic park. The bend in Goddard, near the downtown area, will be paved with bricks set in a heringbone pattern.

The city plans to pump nearly

\$6 million to revitalize downtown, according to Tim Keyes, economic development director for Romulus.

"Every city needs a downtown," he said. "Downtown is where everything is. It's the heart of the community and it's vital to the community because it gives them a good place to go."



Hopping to help needy

The Romulus Education Association recently donated 21 baskets of toiletries to needy and homebound seniors for the "REA Hops into Giving" initiative. The baskets were filled with soaps, lotions, shampoo, shaving cream, detergent, cleaning supplies and other items that are always needed. The baskets were given to seniors identified through the Romulus Meals on Wheels program. Here Romulus Middle School speech pathologist Cindy Bondy and Halecreek Elementary School social worker Pat Flodin pose with the baskets before they were whisked away to the needy.

Helping hand Pair returns from trip to aid tsunami victims

Andrea King
Staff Writer

From Dallas to L.A., L.A. to Taiwan, Taiwan to Hong-Kong, Hong-Kong to Bangkok, and finally, from Bangkok to Phuket, Thailand, Kari Mizer and Krista Pancone traveled all the way from Belleville to help rebuild broken homes and spir-

its that were washed away during the December tsunami. "The hardest part was seeing the people afterwards and hearing what they had to go through," said Pancone. "It was rough seeing their reality."

Through the Global Expeditions organization, a Christian mission group, these college freshmen joined 103 others on the trip to Phuket from March 12-21.

Once in Thailand, Mizer and Pancone said they were not prepared for what was in store, but what they found, to their surprise, was that the Thai people welcomed outside help and the unfamiliar faces.

"It was incredible to hear them say they were going to just pick-up and move forward," said Mizer. "These are truly the most selfless people I've ever met. They bent over backwards to accommodate us. It's amazing how well you can

still communicate even though you don't speak the same language."

But they certainly had their work cut out for them. Depending on which village they were in, cement pillars were found crushed, houses were tilted over and debris was scattered on the beach floor. More than 500 people died in just one of the villages they visited, Pancone said.

"They would separate things into sortable and not sortable piles to be burned because they don't have anywhere else to put it," she said. "Some villages weren't as devastated as others, but saying that is not giving it justice."

"Unfortunately, reports of another earthquake hitting them happens about every week now so they live in so much fear. Many have bags packed in case they have to leave," said Mizer.

Volunteers from all over the world came together to help rebuild homes, bridges and boats that were lost in the tsunami, but the most rewarding part of the trip for Pancone, she said, was working with the children. They purchased toys and other gifts for the children with the extra money that was generated through their fundraising efforts, she said.

"Their lives are now founded on tragedy and destruction, so to offer them this joy really put a

Their lives are now founded on tragedy and destruction, so to offer them this joy really put a smile on their faces.

Krista Pancone



Here, Thai people work on rebuilding a bridge that was destroyed during the tsunami. When finished, the bridge will be constructed of both cement and wood.

smile on their faces," said Pancone. "The older children took care of the younger ones. They have a strong sense of community."

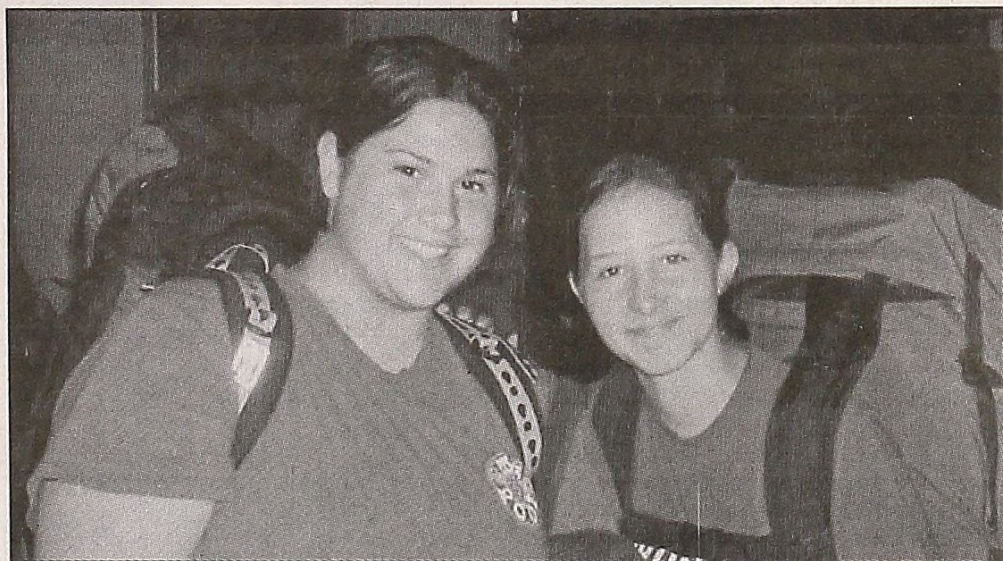
As they walked up and down the beach picking up trash, finding diaper bags, coaches, shoes and other belongings, Pancone and Mizer said they realized that these belonged to people killed in the disaster.

"It's hard to know that there's only so much we can do," said Mizer. "I fell in love with these people and-as foreign and different from us as they may be-they are still the person next door."

"I have a passion to help people understand that there is more beyond the U.S. border," she added. "Going on these trips I can equate this different kind of love with helping people and it's important to bring that back. Other people can do it too; it's just up to the priorities you make. There's a whole other world out there and a lot we can learn from it."



Instead of a thriving tourist destination that it once was, people who now visit this village in Phuket will see hotels that were demolished during the earthquake.



Krista Pancone (left) and Kari Mizer (right) from Belleville spent their college spring break this year helping to rebuild what was lost during the December tsunami. They spent a week in Phuket, Thailand.

NOTICE

Please be advised, pursuant to Article 6 Section 6.5 of the Romulus City Charter and P.A. of 1976, Michigan Open Meeting Act, Romulus City Council has scheduled Study Sessions to be held on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 6:00 p.m., Monday April 25, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. and a Public Hearing on Monday, May 2, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Romulus Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall 11111, Wayne Road for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2005/2006 Fiscal Year Budget.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING

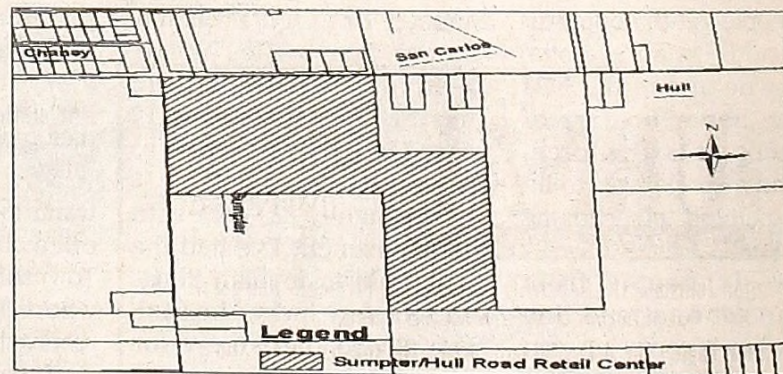
Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: April 7, 2005

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday April 13, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, by rezoning parcel numbers V-125-83-134-99-0002-703. This property is located on the southeast side of Sumpter and Hull Roads. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting to rezone from AG-Agricultural and Estate to C-1 General Business. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., April 13, 2005 the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: March 24, 2005
April 7, 2005

OPINION

Always a good cause

It's budget time throughout the state, and many municipalities are feeling the pinch.

That's particularly true in built-up, older cities like Plymouth, Westland, Belleville and Wayne, where a soft economy and reduced state shared revenue have dramatically impacted the bottom line.

Many of these communities have cautioned that they may have to reduce services in order to balance the budget, and that typically means most of the frills come off.

That's why it's nice to see so many other groups come forward to support important activities that benefit us all but for some reason or other find themselves falling off the radar – or the line items – of the municipalities themselves.

Let's face it, there are a lot of good things going on around here, from the Village Theater in Cherry Hill Village in Canton, to the renovation of the State Wayne Theater in Wayne. The proliferation of arts groups like the Belleville Are Council on the Arts, the community theater groups in Wayne, the Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Northville Arts Commission – which recently took over an old municipal building.

It's good to see that these things are still important, that there are still plenty of active, creative people out there willing to put in their own time and energy to promote them, to help them grow and flourish.

That community spirit doesn't stop there, either. On virtually any night or weekend, you can find some organized group of people, or just a loosely affiliated collection of like-minded individuals, getting together to put on some kind of benefit for some needy cause or family. It doesn't matter if it's something like a new roof on a historic home, a family with a sick child or parent, or benefits that aid troops currently serving overseas, the families they left behind or those that were wounded as they served their country, there are always people to take these causes on and those who support them.

It demonstrates that, despite our occasional differences, we are all looking for the same thing, we all share a common bond of community spirit, generosity and goodness.

Again, it's a good thing to see, because no matter what the economy is like, nor our personal budgets, that's something there will always be a market for.

'Licensed' education supporters are sought

Help may be on the way for school districts throughout the state.

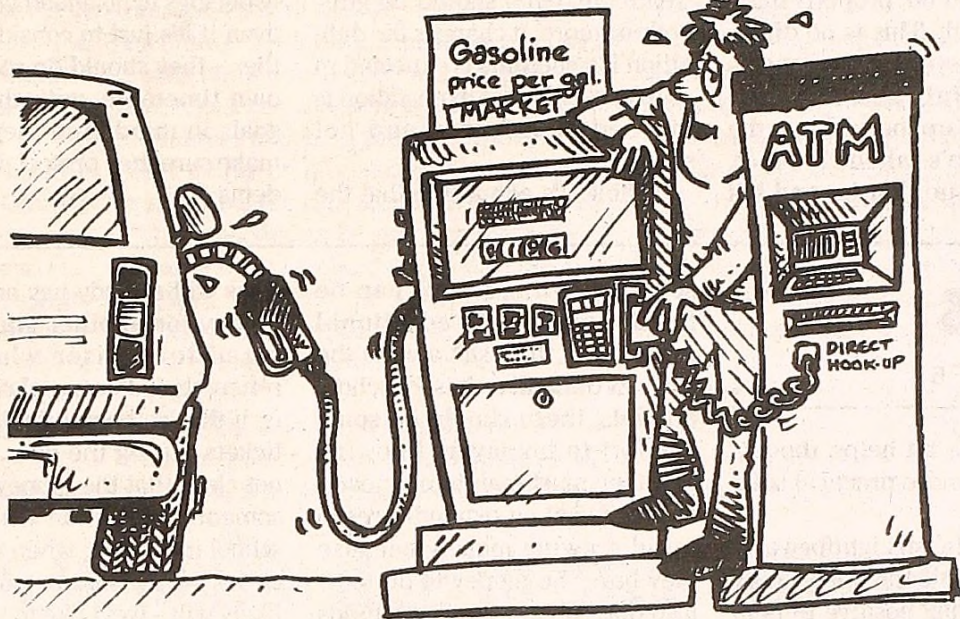
Legislation was introduced last month by State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) that could bring more money to schools, which have labored under the burdens of increasing costs and relatively stagnant revenue streams.

The legislation, Senate Bill (SB) 349, would allow drivers to purchase a special license plate that would provide more funds to the School Aid Fund. Emblazoned with the logo: 'I support better education,' it would be similar to fundraising plates in other states or those currently available in Michigan that provide fundraising opportunities for charitable groups and the University of Michigan.

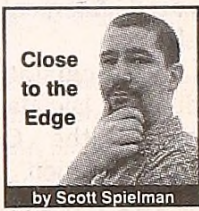
It's probably not the cure that school officials would like to see from Republican leadership; they'd most likely much rather see a guaranteed yearly increase in school funds, which has been proposed under other legislation.

See Plates, page 6

ITS A STRUGGLE TO KEEP ALL 3 FILLED!!



Living in the pools, perhaps we forget about the sea



I expected a packed meeting room at Northville Township Hall Monday night when the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) gathered to discuss a proposed land swap between Northville Township and developer Grand Sakwa.

I wasn't disappointed, either – at least in that respect.

The proposal would exchange about 15 acres the township owns at the corner of Five Mile and Sheldon roads with about 168 acres optioned by Sakwa north of Five Mile Road on either side of Ridge Road. The only stipulation is that the township re-zone the parcel from residential to commercial use, something that has understandably upset the residents that live nearby in \$500,000 homes.

Township officials have pursued the idea, which Sakwa brought to their attention, not to bring more commercial or retail space into the township, but to provide the potential for a large revenue stream later on; a revenue stream that would ultimately help keep taxes lower for all 22,000 residents of the township.

My feelings are mixed, about the meeting Monday night and the proposal as a whole.

First of all, I can't stand the phrase: We've all got long memories, come election time. It doesn't matter where I hear it or under what circumstances, the underlying threat that officials have to listen to

a particular group of people or be ousted from office is just uncalled for.

Now, before anyone accuses me of saying elected officials shouldn't have to listen to their residents, that's not what I meant or intended – or said, for that matter. Of course they should listen to residents, all residents. But they're put in place to make decisions for residents, all residents. They just shouldn't have to do that under loosely veiled threats.

The room erupted in astonished murmurs when Michael Weaver, a member of the EDC, said that the assembled group in the room wasn't the largest block of voters in the township. It was a bit short on tact, sure, but the meaning behind his comments were clear, at least to me: We've got to look at the bigger picture.

That's not to say that the township officials should simply forget the concerns of the residents and I don't believe they ever intended to do that. It means they have to factor it into the equation, which is something they probably would have done even if nobody had shown up at public hearings to complain. It's a difficult line to walk.

My problem with scenario isn't that the township officials are discussing it, or the procedure they're

See Gift, page 6

No anonymous opinions here, thanks



In a way, I guess I'm privileged. Whenever I want people to know what I think about something, all I have to do is sit down and start pecking at the keyboard, and by Thursday, whatever hare-brained notion or idea I had a few days before is in print and being distributed.

Which is a scary thought. Sometimes I'm not sure who that person was a few days before.

The practice of readers going to newspapers for commentary isn't what it used to be, though. Thanks to online blogs, forums, chat rooms and other manifestations of the Internet, just about anyone can howl about what they think is ill with the world.

Everyone has the chance to voice their views and many do, from modern Nazis to folks bent on saving the whales. The right to free speech has never been as exercised as much as it has since the Internet evolved. The possibilities of a better republic through blogging are obvious. But there are drawbacks, too.

Canton residents now have a web destination to

voice their opinions, views, ideas and gossip. It all sounds great, right? Local citizens coming together with elected officials to mold a better vision of their community's future?

Please, someone use the flag to waft some of that smell the other way.

For one, most of the topics on the website won't address important issues. Instead, they will focus more on things that rile people up, the types of issues that make front-page headlines in newspapers because of that fact. We know a little something about that here. If only the Canton Voice was around during the Big Boy fiasco. The site's hit number would have gone through the roof.

The site ultimately won't bring citizens together with elected officials, either, considering it will probably only be read by one elected official, the site's

See Opinion, page 6

JOURNAL

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The Canton Journal • The Northville Journal • The Plymouth Journal
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Gift

FROM PAGE 5

following. I just don't like the way Sakwa is going about it. He seems to have the habit of asking for things under a tight deadline; maybe that's so officials will jump at it and not properly think things through. This is no different; his option on the property expires in July and he wants feedback before then. It's not the first time he's taken this tact, either. It's true that he and his

firm have been generous to the township in the past. He's donated land, he's donated funds, he's paid for improvements and generally been a good corporate citizen. I always wonder what the hidden cost of those types of donations are, though, and if he believes it entitles him to special treatment. Gifts should be gifts, nothing more. It changes the definition if something is expected in return, even if that expectation is implied or inferred and not spelled out.

I think it's admirable that the

township officials should investigate this unique opportunity; they're supposed to embrace new ideas in order to keep taxes down and maintain levels of service.

I don't see how this can be pulled off in the time allotted, though. If the township ultimately decides to go ahead with this – even if it's just to consider it further – they should do so on their own timetable, with their own goals in mind. And they should make sure they protect their residents.

Plates

FROM PAGE 5

Every little bit helps, though, and this is a more practical solution.

"It's simple, straightforward, and gives people the opportunity to do something positive to help out," Patterson said in a prepared statement. It is and does all that.

The legislation was introduced in late March and delegated to the Committee on Transportation.

The problem with a guaranteed increase in school funding is two-fold. It assumes that

school-funding issues can be fixed merely with additional money, and that isn't always the case. As difficult as it is for school officials, there should be some comfort to taxpayers knowing that they must maintain a nearly constant vigil on expenditures to avoid growing merely because they have the money to do so. It also doesn't say where the funds for these automatic increases would come from. There's only so much money to go around, after all, and the School Aid Fund already distributes about \$12.5 billion of it.

A proposal like this most likely won't bring in as much money as a legislatively guaranteed annual increase, given that many

of us will already pay additional money for another state sponsored fundraiser when they renew their license plates – that is, if they've been hit with traffic tickets during the year. It's also not clear that the money paid by someone in Canton will go to a school in Canton; when the issue clears the legislature – as it most likely will – we'd like to see some effort taken to ensure that the funds stay local, if that's at all practical.

Still, we like this proposal because it gives people a chance to do something more than just write letters and wish for the sky. Now, if we could just get some legislator to sponsor a bake sale to fix some of these roads...

Opinion

FROM PAGE 5

founder, Trustee Todd Caccamo, who has succeeded in making other board members grimace more than once while the township has conducted business since he was elected last year.

But that isn't the only reason the site has left other officials cold. Township Supervisor Tom Yack called the site entertainment and a political maneuver.

Entertainment? Well, I'm slightly entertained while writing this column, so I can agree with that. A political maneuver? Surely. Usually any move a politician makes is political. It's the nature of the beast.

Something else Yack said about the site jelled with me, as well,

and that's the fact that most people who post these messages are anonymous. PrettyGirl251 who wants my cookie recipe might be a tattooed inmate writing from Jackson. ILoveYou2005 might not really love me at all.

In the case of this newspaper column, you know I am John Counts. You know you can contact me through the newspaper via telephone or email and I will get back to you.

You can see my mugshot peering at you from the black and white page.

You know what I look like and if you see me walking down the street, you can respond to this column appropriately with some face-to-face 'commentary.'

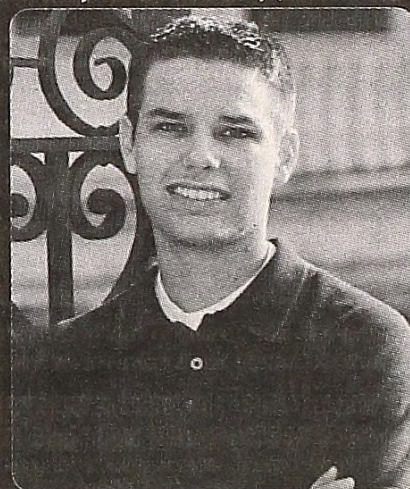
More than likely, though, I won't remember what I was thinking when I wrote it so, please, be easy on me.

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Letters must be signed and a phone number included only for verification of the writer's identity. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential.

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PUBLIC HEARING

2006 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Senior Alliance

Area Agency on Aging 1-C

Date: Monday, May 9, 2005

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Wayne Public Library
3737 S. Wayne Road
Wayne, MI 48184

Older adults, caregivers, service providers, healthcare professionals, and the general public are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing for The Senior Alliance 2006 Annual Implementation Plan. The Public Hearing is an opportunity for community input regarding the service needs of older adults residing in western and southern Wayne County. Written comments will be accepted through May 9, 2005. For additional information, call (734) 722-2830.

A summary of the 2006 Annual Implementation Plan is available prior to the hearing upon request by mail or email at info@tsalink.org.

The Senior Alliance – Area Agency on Aging I-C

3850 Second Street, Suite 201
Wayne, MI 48184
ATTN: AIP

As the Area Agency on Aging for western and southern Wayne County, The Senior Alliance plans, develops, funds, and administers a comprehensive network of services for older adults, caregivers and qualified disabled adults within our planning and service area. Funds are appropriated primarily through the Older American's Act and the Older Michiganians Act.

OBITUARIES

Publish: April 7, 2005

SPORTS

Swept away
Owen Sound ousts Plymouth Whalers from playoffs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It wasn't pretty and it wasn't the way the Plymouth Whalers wanted to finish their season, but Owen Sound swept Plymouth in the first round of OHL playoffs.

The Attack finished the job with a 7-2 victory last Thursday at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

It was really over before it started, though. The Whalers were trying to battle back from a three-game deficit—three very difficult losses. They were shut out, 1-0, in the first game of the series, which would end up being

the closest game of them all. They were blasted 6-1 in Game 2 and shut out again last Tuesday in Game 3.

In Game 4 it was Owen Sound star Brad Richardson who led the Attack with two goals and an assist in the final victory.

He scored the first goal, his fourth of the series, on a power-play attempt at about the 3:46 point of the first. Andrej Sekera earned the assist on the play.

From there, the Attack continued to dominate the period with two more scores.

Robin Big Snake made it a 2-0 game nearly four minutes later. Scott Giles and Bobby Ryan

In Game 4 it was
Owen Sound star Brad Richardson
who led the Attack with two goals
and an assist in the final victory.

notched the assists.

Plymouth's James Neal bit into the lead when he scored a power-play goal with less than 5:00 to play in the first. But Owen Sound's Patrick Jarrett scored the team's third goal of the period with help from Stefan Ruzicka at the 16:56 mark.

The Whalers didn't just give in, though. In the second frame, Jonas Fiedler made it a one-goal game again when he scored a short-handed tally at about 6:12. Steve Ward and goalie Ryan Nie recorded the assists.

But that would be all for the Whalers. The Attack scored two

more power-play goals in the session. Richardson had his hand in both of them. He scored the first one with help from Sekera and Ryan at 11:44. Then he assisted on the second one, which was scored by Ryan at 19:50. Paul Bissonnette earned the second assist.

The Attack kept it coming in the third with two more full-strength goals. Jeff Kyrzakos, from Giles and Kyle Lamb, scored the first and Ruzicka – from Bissonnette and Jonathon Lehun – put the game away, 7-2, at the 16:29 mark.

See Whalers, page 10

Woodard hopes to turn Zebra softball program around

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

"We're working hard to get better."

Those are the words of the new Wayne Zebras varsity softball coach, Wayne Woodard, who hopes he can lead the team to a record better than last year's 1-23.

"I have to be realistic about

what to expect because the Western Lakes league is one of the better softball leagues around," he said, "but we have to do better than the team did last year."

Last year's team actually finished the regular season without a win, 0-22, but they earned their first and only victory in the district playoff tournament.

Woodard, who has known great success as the varsity boys basketball coach, coached middle school softball for five years a while back. He decided to return to the diamond this year when the varsity job opened up.

"I thought I'd give it a shot," he said. "I'll take it year by year and see how it goes. They're really a nice group—a really hardworking

group of kids."

Woodard will have six returning starters from last year's team. On the mound he will have sophomore Emily Robertson and senior Niki Little. Little will also rotate into the infield and Robertson in the outfield when not pitching.

Woodard said Robertson played the infield last year and played it well but figures he can

get more out of her in the outfield.

Junior Carrie Laubernds will take her spot at catcher and may play some outfield, too. Senior Jena Trudell will secure first base and junior Jessica Harris will hold down second while senior Kelly Harris will return as short-stop.

See Zebras, page 11

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Canton softball aims to repeat last year's success

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Heather Richardson, Janet Kuntze and Kelly Baker. Plus, they have a strong core of returning players.

Canton's varsity softball coach Jim Arnold and his Lady Chiefs hope to not only repeat their success from last year but surpass it, as well.

And they just might be able to pull it off.

Last year the team stormed through the Western Lakes

Conference, racking up an impressive 27-9-1 record. They raced through the district tournament and captured the championship. Then they continued strong play in the regional tournament and won that championship, before they fell in the state tournament's quarterfinal round.

A repeat isn't out of the question because the Lady Chiefs only lost of a handful of players from last year's team: Jackie Perino, Annie Rosalies,

The Chiefs main staple on defense, senior pitcher Molly Conlon, will be back on top of the mound. She pitched nearly every game last year and recorded an amazing 20-6 record.

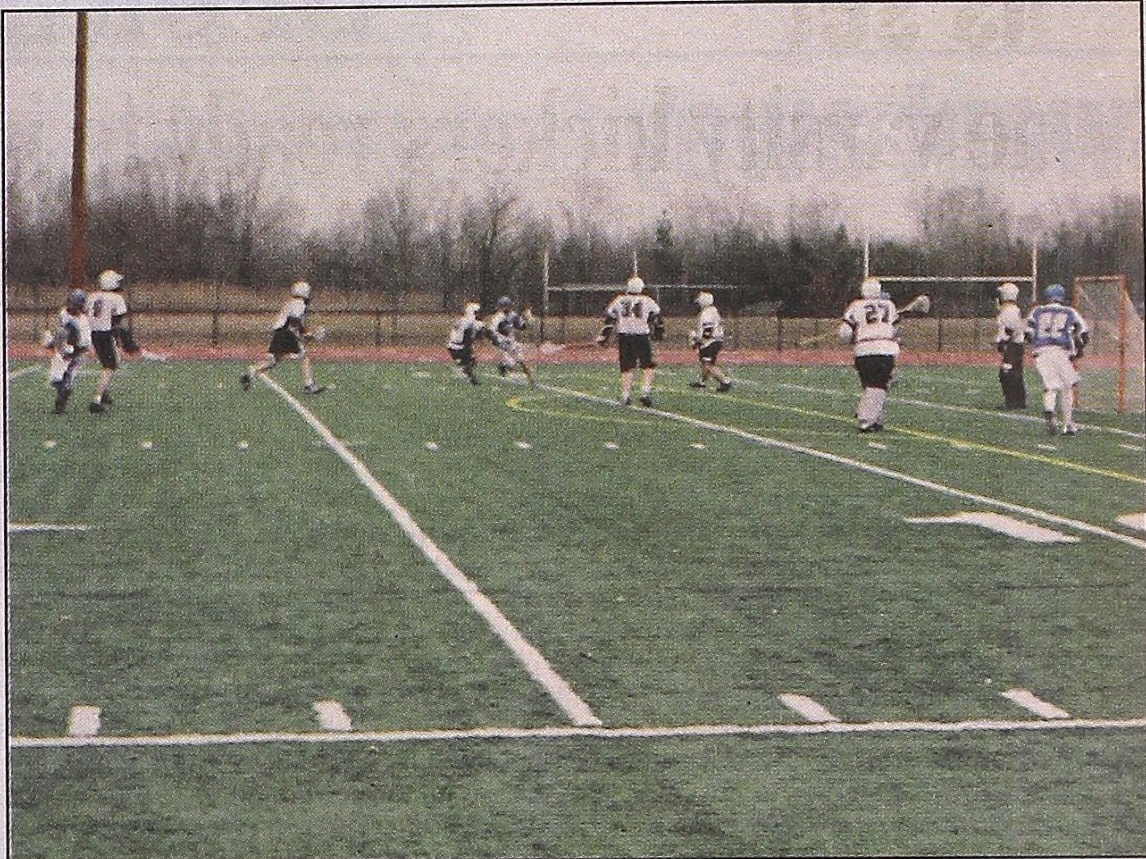
Rachel Wade at second base,

Lauren Delapaz at shortstop and Brittany Scero at third base are also returning - keeping the infield pretty much intact. Senior catchers Molly Prebyiscey

and Melissa Cieniuch will return, too. Senior centerfielder Erika Perkovich will anchor the outfield.

The rest of the positions are up for grabs between senior Krista Holcomb, junior Stephanie Murray, sophomores Alyssa Johnson and Sarah

The defense is doing well, we have good team speed and the bats are starting to come alive right now.



Springing into action

Spring sports are under way. The Romulus lacrosse team (above) enjoys their first scrimmage of the year against Ypsilanti Lincoln High School on March 22. They will head to Tecumseh for their first road game of the season.

Anthony and freshmen Kate Osborne and Hillary Paine.

"I think we're ahead of the game from last year," Arnold said. "The defense is doing well, we have good team speed and the bats are starting to come alive right now."

"We're looking pretty strong," he added. "We have a lot of depth this year."

There's no question that the team has the ability to go beyond what they did last year, according to Arnold.

"I think the team knows what it takes to go beyond what we did last year," he said. "We hope, as coaches, that we can go further. I think the coaches and the team are optimistic."

The team's first test came last

night when they hosted a scrimmage against Brighton - the No. 8 team in the state. Monday they head to Ann Arbor Huron for an opening day doubleheader. They host Ann Arbor Pioneer in a home opener doubleheader at 4:00 p.m. next Thursday. They will host their first conference game - against Wayne - at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18.

Whalers

FROM PAGE 9

Nie faced 40 shots in the contest and Fiedler earned the third star of the game. Now, the young Whalers team will have to start preparing for next year.

Plymouth 0, Owen Sound 5

Richardson was quiet during the first two games of the series but in Game 3 he came alive and scored a hat trick and notched an assist en route to 5-0 victory last Tuesday night in Owen Sound.

Owen Sound goalie Mike Brown earned his second shutout of the series by stopping all 18 Plymouth shots.

Jarrett opened the scoring in the first period with a quick one-timer past Nie at 10:28. Richardson made it 2-0 at about 15:12 on a power play. He slapped a one-timer in from the point from Ryan.

Igor Gongalsky made it a 3-0 game when he battled in a rebound at 16:52 in the second and Richardson gave the Attack a 4-0 lead with a tip-in at 18:16 of the second.

Plymouth changed up goalies for the final period, putting in rookie Justin Garay. But Richardson completed his hat trick when he nailed a shot from the left wing at about the 9:53 mark.

Other Whaler News

John Mitchell tied for third with Owen Sound's Richardson for the "Best on Face-offs" category in the Western Conference in the 2004-05 OHL Coaches Poll.

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Goals set

Wayne varsity kickers ready to improve on last season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

As far as soccer goes in the Western Lakes Conference, if you're not one of the elite teams like Canton, Salem or Northville you're a team just trying to keep your head above water.

That's the way it is for teams like the Wayne Zebras.

Although they are a good group of athletic kids, they tend not to have the same year-round club leagues to play in as the upper echelon teams have.

But in high school sports anything is possible and as any coach will say, "any team can beat any team on any given day." And that's the beauty of it.

All it takes is a lot of hard work and a lot of heart—that's Wayne Coach Larry Brenner's recipe for success in 2005.

"This is a great group of talented young ladies and I expect a lot from

them," he said. "We may not match up with the elite of the Western Lakes, but you won't see us roll over and play dead either. This team will play their hearts out."

The Zebras lost nine notable seniors to graduation from last year. They will be missing forwards Courtney Baracy and Ashley Britton; mid-fielders Erica Grysban, Jennifer Hardy and Stephanie Powers; and defenders Becky Diehl, Katie Nelson, Heather Quinn and Amanda Oliver.

However, they will also have nine returning and experienced players with only two seniors. Senior Katie Sweeney will be back and play at midfield and

Heather Harper will anchor the defense. Brenner will have a slew of experienced juniors returning, though. Amber Day will be back as a forward along with Kelly McDonald and Becky Sikora. Joining Harper on defense will be juniors Alisha Shrader and Jackie Dest. And Angie Jones will be back in net. Joining Sweeney at midfield will be returning sophomore Chrissy Jones.

Wayne will have a host of promising newcomers, as well. Crystal Beaver will join the team as a junior forward. The midfield will get some depth with newbies junior Katie Moro; sophomores Brittney Neighbor, Kellie Newsted and

Nichole Pierson; and freshman Whitney Jacobs.

The defense will also have some new faces in the pack with juniors Teal Christofferson and Jillian Rudy; and freshmen Danielle Borg and Chelsea Johnson. Freshman goalkeeper Nikole Jarvis will back up Jones in net.

The Zebras hope to surpass last year's 3-14 record.

Wayne opened up the season on Tuesday in Allen Park. They played another road game in Thurston on Wednesday, but the results of the games were unavailable at press time.

They'll travel to Taylor tomorrow night to take on the Truman Cougars. They will start conference play with their fourth straight road game against the Stevenson Spartans next Wednesday.

They kick off their home schedule at 4:00 p.m. next Friday against the Garden City Cougars.

"
We may not match up with the elite of the Western Lakes, but you won't see us roll over and play dead either. This team will play their hearts out.
"

Zebras

FROM PAGE 9

Newcomers to the Zebras will include junior infielders Alysa Henning and Becca Rowland; junior outfielders Latosha Davenport and Sarah Demske; sophomore outfielder Heather Rice; and freshman outfielder Heather Henning.

Sophomore pitcher Abby Monit will join Robertson and lit-

"
I hope the girls work hard and continue to get better. If they do that it will be a positive season.
"

tle on the mound. She may also see some time in the infield, according to Woodard. Junior Sandie Huff may split time between catching and the outfield.

Woodard said that all three pitchers have been doing well in

practice and there's been no decision on who will start. He will know more after their doubleheader with Wyandotte Roosevelt on Saturday.

On offense, he said Monit, Laubernds and Kelly Harris have been swinging the bats well.

"I have a lot of expectations," Woodard said. "I hope the girls work hard and continue to get better. If they do that it will be a positive season."

There's plenty for the Zebras to look forward to this year with elite teams such as Canton, Northville, Salem and neighboring nemesis John Glenn, but Woodard said he would take things one game at a time.

"When you come off a season like last year every game is a test," he said. "And I haven't been in it

for a couple of years so I'll have to wait and see. Each game will be a test. I'm just looking forward to getting things going."

The Zebras start the season with the doubleheader at home against the Roosevelt Bears on Saturday. The first game is scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

Their first test in the Western Lakes is against last years district and regional champs, the Canton Chiefs. The game is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18 in Canton.



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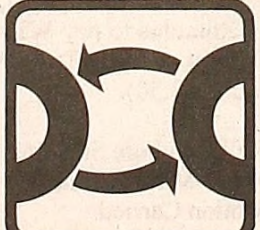
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Around the field

Canton High School

Canton baseball hosts Brother Rice in a doubleheader starting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11.
Canton soccer will take to their field against Walled Lake Central at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13.

Northville High School

The Mustang baseball crew will host neighboring rival Novi at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 9.
The girls' varsity soccer team will be at home at 7:00 p.m. on Friday to take on the Wildcats of Novi.
The softball squad will host three home

games against Novi (Saturday, April, 9), Farmington (Monday, April 11) and Southgate (Wednesday, April 13). All games are scheduled for 4:00 p.m.
Northville tennis will host Ann Arbor Huron at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13.
Boys and girls track will have home field advantage against Wayne at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.

Plymouth High School

The varsity baseball team will be home for their first three games of the season. They take on Ypsilanti Lincoln at 4:00 today, Belleville at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11 and New Boston Huron at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12.
The girls' varsity soccer team hosts

Rochester at 7:00 tonight.

Romulus High School

Romulus baseball is at home against Annapolis at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11.
The Lacrosse team will host Tecumseh at 6:00 p.m. tonight.
The Eagle varsity soccer team opens their season at 4:30 p.m. today against Airport.
The softball squad will host Annapolis at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11 and Truman at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13

Salem High School

Salem varsity baseball will have their

season and home opener at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 in a doubleheader against Adrian.
Varsity softball is home against Ypsilanti Lincoln at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13.
The lacrosse team will host Novi at 8:00 p.m. tonight and Grand Blanc at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12.

Wayne Memorial High School

Both Zebra baseball and softball will host Wyandotte Roosevelt in a doubleheader starting at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 9.
The Wayne tennis crew will host Garden City at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 14, 2005 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-093

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 7, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-094

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to grant a No-Fee Permit to Mount Olive Baptist Church 35565 Beverly Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174 for the purpose of hosting a Carnival July 7, 2005 through July 10,2005, on property located east of Wayne Road, south of Beverly Road. Further to notify the Romulus Police Department, City of Romulus Fire Department and the Department of Public Works.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

3B. No Action Taken.

05-095

3C. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to concur with the Planning Commission and grant a request from Liberty Property, PC-2004-046, and introduce an ordinance to amend the zoning of a 32.34+- acres located on the north side of Ecorse Road east of Cogswell Road 4.14+- acres of DP# 82-80-024-99-0001-701; 17.08+- acres of DP#82-80-024-99-0001-702; 11.02+- acres of DP#82-80-024-99-0004-705 from M-1, Light Industrial Business District, to M-2, General Industrial District as recommendation by the City Planning Consultant, Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc. memorandum dated December 13, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-096

3D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Miller with concurrence with the Romulus Police Department and the Romulus Fire Department, grant a No-Fee Permit for a Flea Market to the Romulus Progressive Club, located at 11580 Ozga Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174, to be held on Saturday, April 9th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-097

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to concur with D.P.W. Director, Carl Brooks, and award the Engineering Bid for the Rouge River Watershed Grant to

Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-098

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 04/05-19, 20, and 21, introduced at the meeting held February 28, 2005.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

05-099

6A2. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Advisory Appointment Committee and appoint Donald Morris to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term left vacant by the death of Mr. Brooker Edwards, with the term expiring June 30, 2006.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

05-100

9. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to adopt a resolution supporting continuing funding of the Community Development Block Grant Program and opposing transfer of the program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Commerce. Further, that this resolution be forwarded to our Congressional Representatives and U.S. Senators requesting their support in saving the most comprehensive Community Development Program in the nation.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

05-101

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff authorizing the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 05-05 (excluding Fund 301, "Beverly Road Construction in the amount of \$62,382.50), in the dollar amount of Five Hundred, Twenty Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Eight Dollars and Seventy Nine Cents, (\$529,658.79).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

05-102

11B.Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to pay Warrant 05-05, Fund 301 Beverly Road Construction in the dollar amount of Sixty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Eighty Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$62,382.50).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays -Miller, Romak.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth supported by Romak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 14, 2005.

Linda Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 7, 2005

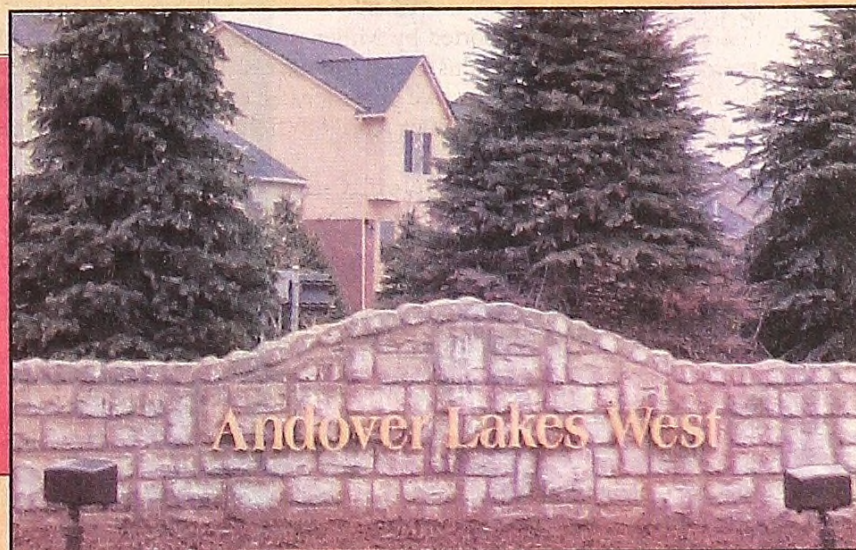
B PROGRESS IN Business\$\$



**AREA BUSINESSES
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MEETING THE NEEDS
OF OUR COMMUNITY**

MEET THEM ON THESE SPECIAL PAGES

WATCH FOR MORE IN NEXT WEEK'S EDITION



Abbeys of Westland caters to clients' needs

John Counts
Staff Writer

Just because their one-floor condominium units lack stairs doesn't mean The Abbeys of Westland isn't striving to climb to the top of their market.

In fact, the carefree lifestyle afforded by living in the single-story ranch condominiums like the ones currently under construction in Westland are what keep Classic Tradition Homes a step above the rest, according to Kim Patwell, regional marketing and sales director.

"It's really an awesome concept," she said. "We build very active communities."

Patwell said the developments are not just a place to live, but a way to live. The Abbeys of Westland will include a clubhouse, a swimming pool and an on-site activity director who plans events, games and even trips.

Since the condominiums are one-level, Patwell said they are very appealing to senior citizens, though many younger people who want to live a more liberating lifestyle find them a pleasant place, as well.

Patwell said that what makes developments like the Abbeys of Westland so desirable are all the options available for entertainment.

"Nowadays, people are really active even when they retire," she said. "We offer them a care-

free lifestyle."

Westland is just one area in Michigan where Classic Tradition Homes is developing a community. The firm, which is based in Ohio, is also getting started on sites in Ypsilanti, East Lansing and Taylor.

Classic Tradition Homes began building in North Carolina several years ago. Patwell said they came to Westland because the area was vibrant.

"We came here because it is a very active community," she said.

People with handicaps are also catered to, Patwell added. Doors can be widened, support beams added and countertops can be lowers for those with special needs, she said.

"We go over and above what a lot of people do," Patwell said. "We will make our homes work for them."

There are still six condos left in the first phase of The Abbeys at Westland, which is located on Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne roads, right across the street from John Glenn High School.

When the second phase is complete sometime this summer, there will be 104 units in the complex. They range in size from 1,500 to 1,900 square feet, and in price from \$186, 900 to \$199,900. Patwell said bids on the second phase will begin being taken in May.



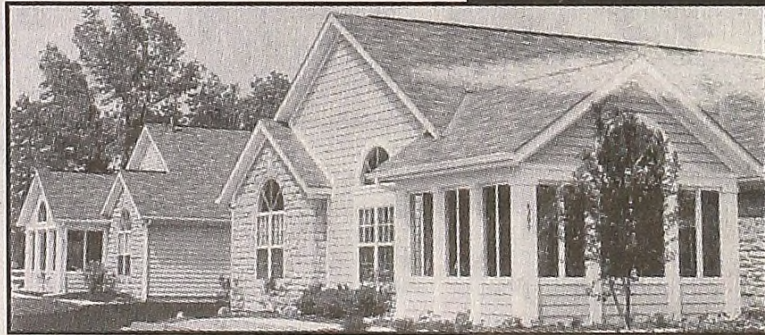
This is a model of a one-level condominium Classic Tradition Homes is building in Westland. The first phase of The Abbeys of Westland is nearly sold out. The second phase goes on sale in May.



The breakfast bar at a typical Classic Tradition home looks out over the living room.

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Family business

3 generations have worked at local car dealership since 1957

Scott Spielman
Editor

After nearly 50 years, it's easy to say good service at Jack Demmer Ford is a family tradition.

The dealership was formed in 1957 by Jack Demmer and Jimmy Spitler and now boasts three generations of family members who work at the automotive group. Matt, Bill's son and Jack's grandson, is the sales manager at the Jack Demmer dealership in Dearborn.

"He started out sweeping the floors, just like Bill and I did," said Jim Demmer, Bill's brother and vice-president of the automotive group.

When his father got into the business in the late 50s, he and Spitler owned an Edsel dealership on Wayne Road. Despite the difficulties with that particular model of automobile, the dealership flourished and the pair bought into a Ford and Mercury dealership in 1960. They came to Wayne in 1963 and moved to their current location, on Michigan Avenue and Newburgh Road, in 1969. Bill, the president of Jack Demmer Automotive Group, oversees things at the Dearborn location and Jim hangs his hat at the Wayne dealership. And Jack? He's still involved, too.

"When he's in town he still shows up for work every day," Jim said.

The dealership occupies 13 acres of land along Michigan Avenue, now, which is a lot more space than they once occupied at Michigan Avenue and Elizabeth Street, now the current site of a gas station and the office build-

The thing that's kept us steady is quality.
Jim Demmer

ing that houses *The Journal Newspapers*.

Jim said the idea behind the continued prosperity of the firm is a simple one:

"The thing that's kept us steady is quality," he said. "We've got quality product and quality people. We're here to meet the needs of the customers."

Those customers will see some new products and retooled old favorites this year, too, whether it's the best in its class Ford F-10 pickup truck to the popular Ford 500 sedan or the new Freestar – the current version of a Ford mini-van – or the Freestyle, a crossover vehicle that emulates both a sport utility vehicle and a station wagon. And

don't forget the Ford Mustang; the revamped 2005 version has been so popular that Demmer said it's hard to keep them on the lot.

But the ability to sell cars isn't the only thing that that Jack instilled in his sons. They're also dedicated to the community. Jack himself was instrumental in the organizations like the Dearborn Kiwanis Club, the Canton and Wayne chambers of commerce, the Wayne Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board and the Parks and Recreation Board, to name a few. Bill and Jim have followed suit. Jim said the dealership also contributes to many charitable organizations and fund-raising efforts, too.

"We think it's vital," he said. "We don't think there's any other way – part of that is because of what Dad did."

"It helps maintain a sense of the purpose in running the business," he added. "When we see the benefit of being involved in the community it helps us focus on what we're all about, which is people helping people."

He said the staff at the dealerships deserve a lot of credit, too.

"They make it all happen for us," he said. "We try to take care of them as much as we can. We treat everyone with respect."



Jim Demmer, vice-president of the Demmer Automotive Group, said much of the success of his family's business has been the customer service they've provided for nearly 50 years.

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Difference this Spring!

2005 Ranger XLT 4x4 Supercab

Take a look at these features... Dark shadow gray, medium flint cloth, edge trim, MP3 CD/cassette, 5 speed auto. O/D trans., P255 OWL all-terrain tires, sliding rear window, privacy glass, PW, PL, remote keyless entry, air conditioning. WAS \$26,475

NOW

\$18,073³⁰

Stock #51320

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$195.65 PER MO.	\$138.00 PER MO.
	\$410.39 amount due	\$1771.21 amount due

2005 F-150 4x2 Styleside SC

Take a look at these features... Black clearcoat, med/dark flint prem. cloth captains, 5.4L EFI V8 engine, elect. 4-spd. auto. O/D, 3.73 ratio limited slip axle, sliding rear window, trailer tow pkg., premium 6-CD with MP3, keyless entry key pad, deluxe mirror pkg. WAS \$30,395

NOW

\$20,163²⁵

Stock #50885

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$239.61 PER MO.	\$170.00 PER MO.
	\$486.99 amount due	\$2086.37 amount due

2005 Ford Explorer 4x4

Take a look at these features... Silver birch, graphite cloth sport buckets, convenience group, 17" bright alum wheels, 5-spd. auto. O/D trans., power moonroof, audiophile AM/FM 6-CD in dash, trailer tow pkg., cargo area cover, black roof rail. WAS \$35,525.

NOW

\$24,941⁶⁵

Stock #53142

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$326.97 PER MO.	\$262.51 PER MO.
	\$609.59 amount due	\$2131.26 amount due

2005 Freestyle FWD SEL

Take a look at these features... Silver Frost, shale cloth bucket, AM/FM/CD x6 MP3 radio, anti-lock brakes, message center, 17x7 5-spoke bright alum. wheels, steering wheel audio controls, fog lamps, 50/50 split seat, 60/40 split 3-pass 2nd row. Was \$27,185

NOW

\$22,449⁶⁵

Stock #52648

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$260.57 PER MO.	\$197.92 PER MO.
	\$359.20 amount due	\$1882.80 amount due

2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL

Take a look at these features... Pueblo gold, AM/FM/CD x6 MP3 radio, dual auto A/C, fog lamps, 17x7 7-sp. alum wheels, message center, steering wheel audio controls, 3.0L 4V V6 Duratec engine, auto 6-spd. trans., reverse sensing system. WAS \$25,045

NOW

\$20,556²⁵

Stock #52779

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$269.66 PER MO.	\$206.26 PER MO.
	\$368.84 amount due	\$1891.64 amount due

2005 Ford Escape Limited FWD

Take a look at these features... Black clearcoat, black prem. leather trim bucket, power 6-way driver seat, front and rear floor mats, speed control, air conditioning, perimeter alarm, 4-spd. auto. O/D transmission. WAS \$25,395

NOW

\$18,908⁵⁸

Stock #51873

24 MO. LEASE RENEWAL	ZERO DOWN	\$1500 DOWN
	\$205.00 PER MO.	\$141.60 PER MO.
	\$420.30 amount due	\$1943.10 amount due

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Added interest

Home town bank provides all services to area clients

Scott Spielman
Editor

Audrey Mistor, president of Main Street Bank in Northville, said the type of feedback she's received about the bank usually comes in two main forms:

First, new customers are surprised at how many services are available at the locally-owned and operated independent bank. They're also surprised by how friendly everybody is.

"People tell me they've never been to a bank where everyone is so happy," Mistor said.

Maybe that's because the bank was designed with that small, down-home feeling in mind. Monday morning saw the lobby of the bank on Main Street and Griswold stocked with a popcorn machine, a hot dog steamer and white bags filled with peanuts – a tribute to Opening Day at Comerica Park. Last month was Girl Scout Cookie month and the lobby has also been filled with

the smells of cider and donuts – from nearby Parmenter's Cider Mill.

"We wanted it to feel like a part of the community," she said. "We don't want people to think they have to (perform) a banking transaction to come inside."

The approach seems to be working. The bank opened 13 months ago with Mistor, who had more than two decades in the industry to her credit and Rick Shaffner, the chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who brought more than 25 years of experience as a mort-

"We wanted it to feel like a part of the community. We don't want people to think they have to (perform) a banking transaction to come inside."

gage banker.

It took more than two years and an initial investment from shareholders of about \$8.5 million to start the bank, but it's since more than doubled in size since then. Already the bank has grown to fill the building at the corner – when they opened they occupied only 2/3 of the space. They've grown to 24 employees – more than twice their original 11.



Audrey Mistor (left) president of Main Street Bank in Northville, along with personal banker Muriel Ashley (center) and Jennifer Adams, senior customer service representative, celebrate baseball's Opening Day – and more than a year of growth at the independent bank.

Mistor said the bank now boasts more than \$45 million in assets.

"We've really grown far beyond our expectations," she said. "We thought we'd do well, but we didn't expect this kind of growth."

Mistor said the bank was designed to be the opposite of large national chain banks in that the decisions are made locally. Of the 200 shareholders, 70 percent live within the immediate community. That equates to better service and a more comfortable

experience for clients.

"I think people really like the home-town feel," she said. "It's really missing from a lot of other organizations."

The services provided are equal or better than at those institutions, too, she said. They offer personal savings and checking accounts and access to any ATM machine nationwide – even those within 7-11 stores – that can be used up to six times a month without any cost. Internet banking, wire transfers, over the

counter deposits – are all available, along with mortgages and commercial loans.

"People are surprised that we can do all that," she said. "They think we're a small bank and we can't do that."

Main Street Bank may be expanding further, too. Mistor said the goal is to open between five and seven new branches within the next five to seven years in places like downtown Plymouth and Novi, to name a few.



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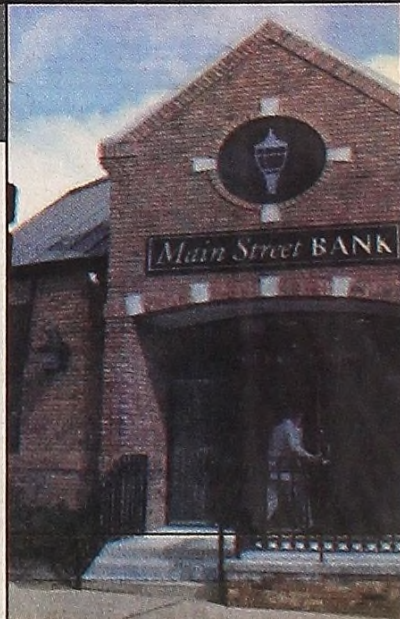
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Quality and price make Pilgrim a winner

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Pilgrim Motorsports in Plymouth said they exist for one reason and one reason only: to serve people to the best of their collective ability, according to the organization and Patrick Tortora, general manager of the store.

"The high manufacturer ratings and great customer service here go hand and hand," he said.

Pilgrim Motorsports, a progressive multi-product powersports dealer, sells a wide variety of new and used brands including: Yamaha, Ski-Doo, Suzuki, Ploaris and Kawasaki, as well as all the high-quality parts, accessories, clothing, helmets and other related gear to go along with them. Everything is reasonably priced, said Tortora.

"We have aggressive pricing here. We are always willing to match and beat prices of our competitors, while still offering high levels of service," he said.

The motorsports store has been servicing people for more than 25 years. Seventeen of those have been in the City of Plymouth.

"We received national awards as one of the largest retailers in powersports including one of the top 10 retail dealers for Suzuki and Yamaha, but we also have a strong presence in the other brands," said Tortora. "We received high satisfaction ratings on all our brands. We certainly

have something for everyone here."

Since the organization believes that personal service and extensive experience are the keys to a successful business, they said they strive every day to be a helpful resource to their valued customers. In doing so, the store provides an onsite service station, online shopping capabilities and long store hours.

"We'll stay open later if need be to accommodate our customers," said Tortora.

As far as prices go, Pilgrim Motorsports offers all kinds of financing options to fit everyone's financial needs. The most popular, Tortora said, is the zero-down program, which offers a low-cost and zero-interest loan option.

Tortora said they are also promoting a special finance deal, which offers a 6.9 percent interest rate for the life of the loan, and, depending on credit status, people can also receive zero-down.

"We can work with anyone's budget," he said.

Currently, the store has several special deals running, which include rebates on a variety of 2004 models and other closeout models. The store is also promoting pre-season jet-ski offers: anyone who purchases a 2005 jet-ski model will receive free accessories worth \$500 and free accessories worth \$1000 for any 2000 jet-ski models.

Pilgrim Motorsports hosts reg-



Pilgrim Motorsports in Plymouth offers a wide variety of new and used multi-product powersports, as well as high-quality parts, accessories, clothing, helmets and other related gear.

ular open house events in the spring and fall and welcomes everyone to attend to see what the store has to offer, according to Tortora.

"Our customers are very satisfied. We have regulars that send in their family and friends which is great," he said. "Our goal is to keep the growth and success we've had in the last 17 years going for another 17 years and then some."



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No place like Trowbridge Homes in Plymouth

Walking through a Trowbridge home in Andover Lakes West subdivision off of North Territorial Road in Plymouth Township is like walking through a sun-drenched palace with enough amenities to make a royal family blush.

However, you won't have to pay a king's ransom to move in to one of these spacious delights.

Starting from the mid \$300,000s, there are eight different floor plans to choose from ranging from 2,400 to 3,300 square feet. Be it the Whittier, the Stratford II, the Sprucewood or one of the many other models, buyers are offered the best in luxury single-family custom built homes.

Trowbridge Homes owner Anthony Randazzo has created a unique subdivision through detail and quality workmanship at an affordable price, said Cheryl Parisi.

Parisi is the lady that does it all – short of physically building the houses herself – for Trowbridge Homes. She does everything from selling the lot to making sure the home includes everything buyers want when it's built from the ground up.

"We're extremely detailed and huge on customer service," she said. "Most importantly we give the customer above and beyond what they want by working closely with them."

"My specialty is to identify the

price point that the customer wants to be in—it's up to me to get them there and keep them there," she added. "I make sure that this is what they wanted when they came in and make sure all of their expectations are met."

As visually appealing as the wide variety of expansive exterior elevations are with their multi-leveled roofs, bay windows and optional three-car garages – an amenity that Parisi said isn't offered by competitors – the interior floor plans are just as stunning.

The countless number of windows allows the sunshine to pour in and the homes feel open and airy with large rooms, vaulted ceilings and wide hallways.

The floor plans are wide open according to modern standards yet they return a sense of the traditional family characteristics as well. Trowbridge Homes offer separate living and family rooms rather than a single great room and a separate dining room instead of a combined kitchen/dining area—something not seen in many of today's luxury homes.

Closet space is also a priority in the homes as most bedrooms offer enormous walk-ins. Even the standard size closets offer more space than in a normal home.

There's also an option for daylight windows in the basement,



Trowbridge Homes has filled 41 of their 80-plus lots in the Andover Lakes West subdivision off of North Territorial Road, just minutes from downtown Plymouth.

which will make it feel more like part of the palace rather than a closed-off dungeon under a castle.

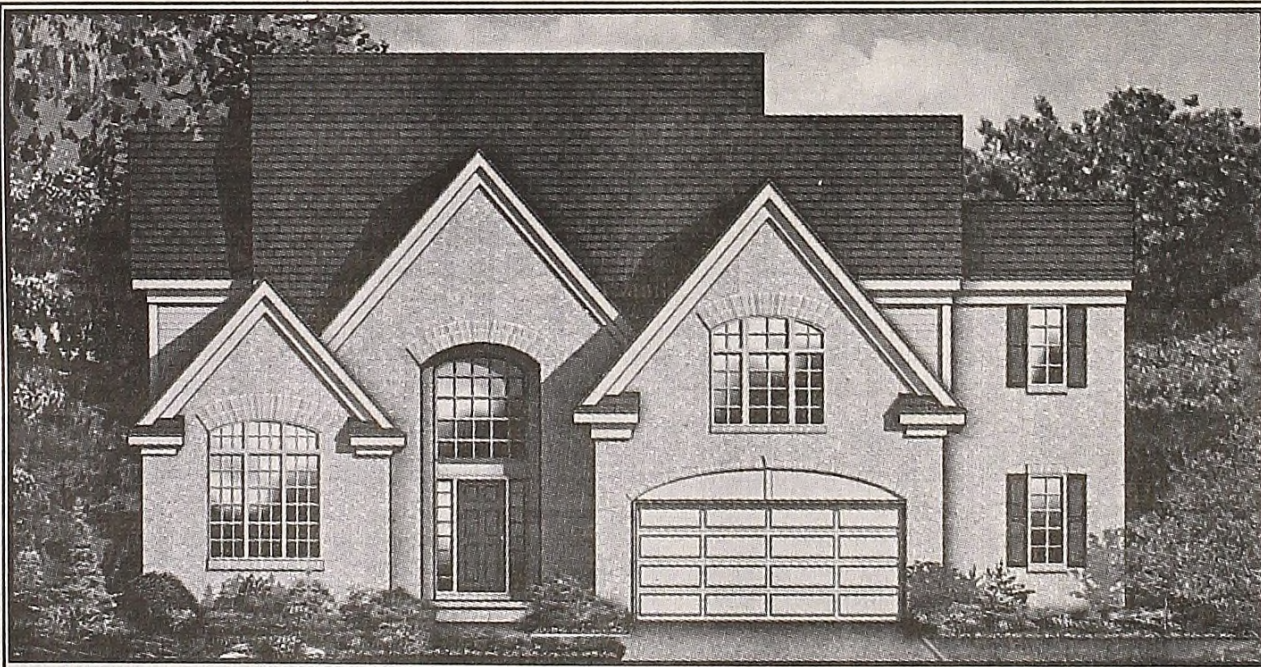
The details are where it's at, though.

From the wood banister leading up the stairs, the fireplace mantle and the gorgeous custom-made wainscoting molding to the attractive hand-tiled bathroom and the luxurious kitchen, there's no turning away from these beauties.

If you're royalty or not, from the time you enter through the front door of a Trowbridge Home you'll realize that you are home.



Cheryl Parisi stands outside one of the newly constructed luxury Trowbridge Homes with project supervisor Mitch Panchula.



- 8 Floor Plans To Choose From • From 2,400 sq ft to 3,300 sq ft
- Walk-Outs & Day Light Window Lots Available
- 3 Car Attached Garages Available on Certain Models
- MID \$300,000 • Plymouth/Canton Schools

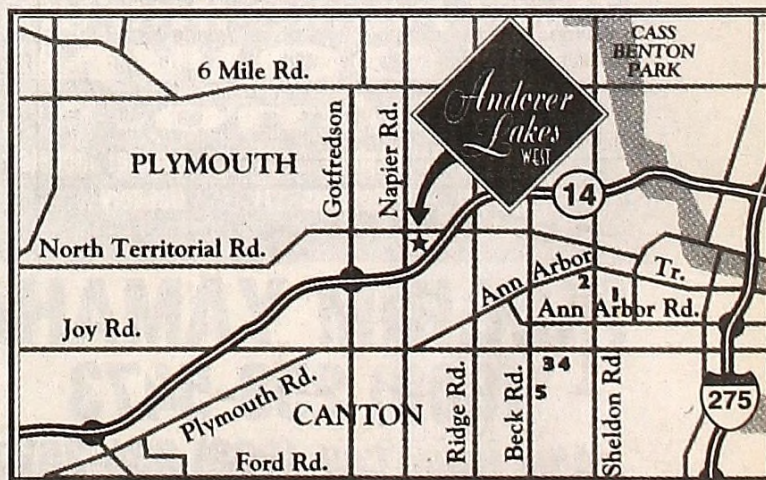


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Is God getting a bad rap? Sometimes I think so

“How could God let this happen?” the battered, bloody man cried in the aftermath of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Another asked how this terrible happening could be God’s will.

Another man said he could no longer pray after losing many members of his family to the raging waters.

The tragedy was referred to as an “act of God.” Wondering about that, I looked up the meaning.

‘Act of God’ is defined as a natural event, such as flood, storms, or lightning not preventable by any human agency; forces of nature that no one has control over, and therefore cannot be held accountable.

“Hmmm. Sounds like God is getting a bad rap.”

Here’s the way I see it.

There is a power that is greater than all humans, I call it God. Others call it Allah, Mohammad, Buddha or other names. It is that beyond human force, we ask for help.

God gave me two arms, legs, a good brain and health and when I made my way into this world, God said, “It’s up to you, Jer. You have the power of self and a strong will to match. Use it, or abuse it.”

“Got you, God,” I answered. “ But, how will you know how I’m doing?”

“Life is like a giant pinball machine,” God said. “Every day I observe the game. The pinballs are people like you, Jerry. They bounce up and down, race around, get flipped off from the flippers and bounce right back.”

“That’s cool, but how do I win this game?”

“If and when you lose your way, get too

beat up and battered, sad or sorry, remember, all you have to do is ask for my help,” God said. “You will not be denied.”

Off I went, and boy did I get beat up, mauled and battered. But, I always knew that if I needed help it would be there. Faith, I guess.

Finally, in the darkest moments of my life, I recalled the words and surrendered my will. I began to ask what his will was for me. My old way of thinking slipped away, my attempts to control faded and from the humility of asking for help, came the beginning of genuine happiness.

Sure, bad, sometimes terrible, things still happened, but, if I accept what is, and believe it was just life and not meant to punish me, or, make me suffer, I feel better, sooner.

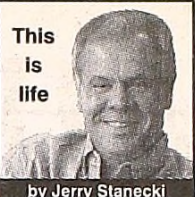
When bad things happen, it is not necessarily an “Act of God,” it’s just part of that giant pinball game.

It is in our desperate hours the true test of faith comes. When I choose to not dwell on why, and ask only for help, relief usually comes. I don’t believe God does bad things to us. That’s just life.

I do believe God is always ready, willing and has the power to bring light to our darkness. All it takes is a request.

•

Save \$4.50 on Jerry’s book: “Life is a Joke and God Wrote it,” Normally \$19.50, it is \$15. Just clip this notice or ad and send check or money order to: Jerry Stanecki, P.O. Box 121 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. To receive a thought for the week or contact Jerry please go to: www.jerrystanecki.com



This is life
by Jerry Stanecki

Huron River website available

Both Wayne and Monroe counties are adding surfing to the ways that people can explore the Huron River.

Now, people can visit www.lowerhuronriver.net to learn about the downriver stretch of the Huron River, view a slideshow of Huron scenes and learn about the protection and restoration effort under way in this part of the river.

People can also learn about ways to get their feet wet in the river, while measuring its health at the same time, and get practical tips on how to help the Huron

with other small actions.

The website is a project of the Lower Huron River Watershed municipality committee, which includes: Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Romulus, Wayne County, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Woodhaven, Rockwood, Gibraltar, Flat Rock, Berlin Charter Township and the Village of South Rockwood.

For more information, call 734-769-5123 or visit the website at www.lowerhuronriver.net.

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“You provide ideas that we can practice right away to make our days richer and more meaningful.” Christian Belz Warren, Michigan

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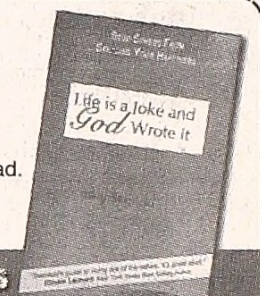
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Don't Panic If You Can't File on April 15 Get An Extension

April 15 will be here before you know it. If you won't be able to file your 2004 income tax return by then, don't forget to file a Form 4868 with the IRS. The extension is automatically granted, and it gives you until August 15, 2005, to file your return.

Be aware, however, that an extension to file does not extend your time to pay. The IRS will still assess interest on any unpaid tax balance. In addition, unless you pay at least 90% of your estimated tax liability by April 15, you may be hit with a late-payment penalty.

In certain circumstances, even if you have no problem submitting your tax returns by the April 15 deadline, getting an extension might still be a good idea.

If you aren't able to pay all of the taxes that you owe by April 15, an extension will allow you to defer paying some of your taxes until August 15. As long as you have paid 90% of your total tax liability by April 15, you should not be subject to IRS penalties on the balance due. And even though you will owe interest on the shortfall, the rate of interest charged by the

IRS may be less than the cost of borrowing elsewhere.

If you are self-employed and you need a few extra months to gather the money necessary to pay your income taxes and to fully fund your retirement plan, you might also benefit by filing for an extension. To deduct contributions made to a retirement plan, the contributions must be made prior to the due date of the tax return, including extensions. By filing a Form 4868 with the IRS, you have up to four additional months to fund your retirement plan. One strategy commonly used by self-employed individuals is to pay the full amount of taxes due with the extension, and then to fund their retirement plans four months later.

If you would like to discuss whether you can benefit from an extension of time to file your taxes, please contact our office @ 734-455-1040.

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show
“Inside Small Business” every weekend on
or call Fred at 734-455-1040



Q: Is my internet connection very secure?

A: Your internet connection by default is not very secure at all. In fact the average life of a machine connected to the internet without a firewall is 20 minutes. The reason for this is Worms. Worms are made to be very destructive and work off of open ports on your machine. All computers have over 65,000 ports open and accessible to these types of attacks. The only solution is a firewall.

Firewalls come in either software or hardware form. Software firewalls can be modified or deactivated by viruses though and can be quite a headache to manage. For these reason I do not recommend them to residential users.

Hardware firewalls are the recommended way of protecting yourself against Worms and hackers. A hardware firewall allows out what needs to go out (over your internet connection) and disallows or blocks attempts to come into your computer or network by unauthorized people or programs.



Steve Whitt
My Computer Guys

With the amount of Worms that are currently live and active and the 15-20 new ones released on the internet everyday it's in your best interest to have a firewall setup and configured by a certified professional like those at My Computer Guys of Michigan before you get attacked and spend twice the amount just to get your machine repaired. To get a better picture of how a Firewall works go to our website at www.mcgofmi.com and go to the help and support section.

Sincerely,

Steve Whitt
My Computer Guys of Michigan
www.mcgofmi.com
(734) 207-8280



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of Michigan
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Free Antivirus Protection

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CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
 & Cemetery Plots
05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

9. Lost & Found

Dog found near
Palmer between
Merriman and Venoy.
Found Sat. April 2nd
Call 734-578-4126

30. Help Wanted

Dependable cleaning help
needed. Part time,
flexible hours,
\$10.00/hour.
Call Sandy at
More Grime Than Time
734-459-9866

Detroit based Logistics
Company looking to hire
Full-Time
Administrative Assistant
and Account Managers.
Experience is not required,
but certainly a plus.
Excellent compensation
and career opportunities.
Interested parties, please
email resume
to Lena at:

lgilbert@tpslogistics.com

Door-to-Door canvassers
needed for Oakland coun-
ty based home improve-
ment company. Hourly
plus commission.
Canvassing exp. preferred
but not necessary.
Call 248-852-0890 and ask
for Carl

Light office cleaning in
Plymouth, evenings night-
ly. excellent wages,
retiree's welcome
Call 734-421-8620

RETAIL ADVERTISING
MANAGER, needed for
The Blade. Submit cover
letter and resume to
HR@toledoblade.com or
The Blade, HR
Department, 541 N.
Superior Street, Toledo,
Ohio 43660.

32. Help Wanted Drivers

TRACTOR & TRAILER MECHANICS NEEDED!!

*Must Have Own Tools
*Minimum 2 years Exp.
*Pre-Employment
Drug Screen
Apply in Person
With L. McMahan At:
RUSH TRUCKING
38500 Van Born Rd.
Wayne, MI
Apply At Trailer
Next To Garage Area
Mon.-Fri. 8am-2pm

DRIVER: GET HOME and
make \$50,000 guaranteed!
\$1,000 Sign On bonus. Per
Diem, 99% no touch
freight, No NYC, 1 year
OTR. Arctic Express
800-927-0431

DRIVER: TUITION PAID
TRAINING! CDL-A in 2 1/2
weeks! Tuition reimburse-
ment for recent graduates!
Miles, Money, Home Time!
Must be 21. Drive CRST
Van Expedited.
800-553-2778.

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Private Tutoring
46. Private Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables

DRIVERS - \$1,000 SIGN-
ON For Experienced
Teams! Earn 41¢/mile. No
NYC, pay on delivery and
guaranteed hometime.
USA Truck 800-237-4642.

DRIVERS - ACCEPTING
TRAINEES! CDL in 16
Days! No Money Down,
Student Financing! Tuition
Reimbursement Avail. Job
Placement Asst. 1-800-
883-0171 ext. A-55.

DRIVERS - DRIVE INTO
SPRING at Buske Country!
Real Miles, Pay for
Experience. Hiring
Solos/Teams/Owner Ops
23/CDL A 1 yr. OTR! 1-
877-613-6385 x 286 apply
@ www.buske.com

DRIVERS: OWNER OPER-
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Tractors \$1.53, Straight
Trucks \$1.15-\$1.35. Free
Qualcomm/Trip Pak. Call
Tri-State Expedited
888-320-5424

DRIVERS/DRIVING
SCHOOL GRADUATES
wanted. Tuition reimburse-
ment. No waiting for train-
ers. Passenger Policy. No
NYC. Guaranteed
Hometime. Dedicated and
regional available. USA
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HEARTLAND DRIVERS
earned a \$5,889.17 raise
last year! With our 2005
increase their raise will be
even higher! Earn more
this year, a lot more!
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express.com

33. Child Care

Cozy Corner
Child Day Care
Warren/Beck area
Fully licensed,
CPR & First Aid trained,
Fun / Loving environment,
10 years experience.
Meals provided. Immediate
openings
Call 313-525-1014

34. Specialized Services

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50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and
Office Equipment

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CARE HAS OPENINGS
FOR ALL AGES FULL OR
PART TIME.
CALL NICHOLE
FOR DETAILS.
(734)722-7537.

34. Specialized Services

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Mowing, Edging,
Rototilling, Spring
and Fall Clean-Ups,
Gutters and More
GREAT RATES.
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40. Business Opportunity

\$2,500-\$5,000 in
30 days. Stuff mail
envelopes for our compa-
ny. \$5 for each envelope
stuffed. Payment guaran-
teed. For information, send
large self-addressed
stamped envelope to:
Global Research
P.O. Box 887
Flint, MI 48501

Work from home. Find
them, list them, and make
money. It's that easy!
www.witcfb.com/
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50. Pets & Supplies

Custom Hybrid and
Purebred Pups.
Great selection/prices.
\$195 and up!
Specializing in Puggles
and Mini-Boxers.
Visit us in person at:
1254 Ecorse Rd.
Ypsilanti, or
Visit our website at:
www.petcitypets.com

Golden Retrievers
2 male pups,
12 weeks old, AKC,
Have first shots,
\$400/each

Call 734-954-0826
&
leave message

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

54. Rummage Sales

First United Methodist
Church of Dearborn,
22124 Garrison St.
(at Mason St.)

Thursday, April 7
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 8
5:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 9
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Books, children's clothing,
collectible's, electronics,
furniture, housewares, jew-
elry, linens, outerwear and
small appliances.
Proceeds benefit youth
programs.

59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale
Pursuant to State Law,
a sale will be held on
April 19, 2005 at
1:00pm
on the following units:

D34-Mae Lackey:
Furniture, Maytag washer,
dryer, boxes, toys, clothes,
steam cleaner;

J30-James Lewis:
Furniture, boxes;

E26-Charles Meltzer:
Furniture, snow blower,
guitar, boxes;

F26-Alfred Tarr: TV, video
cassette, clock, boxes;

G5-Michael Byrn: Love
seat, couch, table &
chairs, vacuum cleaner,
boxes.

AMERICA'S BUDGET
STORAGE
40671 Joy Road
Canton, MI 48187
(734) 459-6444

57. Antiques

Motor City Antiques

13431 Telegraph Rd. Flat Rock, MI 48134 (734) 782-4018
17,000 Sq. Ft. of Antiques & Collectibles

Over 100 Dealers

Come Visit our NEW 950 Sq. Ft.
FURNITURE ALLEY

Hours: Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun Noon-6

78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Garages for Rent
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent

PUBLIC AUCTION
Sat. April 9, 2005
10:00AM

Newburgh Mini Storage
1638 S. Newburgh
Westland, MI 48186

Richard Clendennin D-18
Randi Boyd E-37

PUBLIC AUCTION
FORT KNOX STORAGE
Sun., Apr. 17, 10:00am
39205 Ford Rd., Westland
www.fortknoxmi.com
(734)981-0700

#129-Frederick Shirley:
New laminate flooring with
padding and trim

#273-Wesley L. Clubb:
Bike, appliances, tables,
chairs, dresser

#305-Shirley M. Johnson:
Couch, bookshelves

#377-David E. Khoury:
Restaurant seating, files,
decorations

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AUCTION

On APRIL 12, 2005 the
Westland Police
Department will conduct
public auctions of
impounded abandoned
vehicles. The first auction
will begin promptly at
10:00am at Westland
Service Towing, 37501
Cherry Hill, Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

1986 GMC Starcraft
StWgn Gray
1SAHC52F4G7A00056

1999 Ford Taurus
4Dr Green
1FAFP53S2XG146827

1991 Ford Taurus
4Dr White
1FACP52U8MG161494

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

1986 Chevy Caprice
4Dr Blue
1G1BN69HXGY100228

1990 Ford Ranger
Pk Trk Blue
1FTCR10A5LUB44416

1989 Ford F-150
Pk Trk Red
2FTEF15Y4KCA88197

1990 Ford Taurus
4Dr Blue
1FACP52U5LG187923

1996 Saturn SC1
2Dr Gray
1G8ZF1285TZ122961

1984 Toyota Stake
Pk Trk Blue
JT4RN60R7E5028771

1985 Chevy Citation
4Dr White
1G1XX68X3FT102178

1986 Buick LeSabre
4Dr Silver
1G4HR6930GH465619

The second auction will
begin promptly at 10:30am
at Ace Towing, 33032 Ford
Rd., Westland, MI, County
of Wayne, where the fol-
lowing vehicles will be
offered for sale to the high-
est bidder:

1998 Ford Windstar
StWgn Red
2FMZA5148WBC54660

The third auction will begin
promptly at 11:00am at
Westland Car Care, 6375
Hix Rd., Westland, MI,
County of Wayne, where
the following vehicles will
be offered for sale to the
highest bidder:

1985 Ford F-150
Pk Trk Black
1FTDF15Y3FLA40164

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1988 Mercury Gr. Marquis
4Dr White
2MEBM75F8JX703236

1995 Saturn LS
4Dr Black
1G8ZK5279SZ132403

1992 Ford T-Bird
2Dr Red
1FAPP6049NH146072

1990 Ford
Van Red
1FTGS24Y4LHA69803

1992 Mercury Marquis
4Dr Tan
2MECM75W4NX663490

1994 Ford Tempo
4Dr Green
1FAPP36XXRK138135

All vehicles are sold in "as
is" condition. Bidding on
all vehicles will start at the
amount due for towing and
storage. Vehicles may be
deleted from this list at any
time prior to the start of the
auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown owner-
ship, 30 day notice is here-
by given that the vehicle
listed below will be auc-
tioned after MAY 7, 2005
unless it is claimed by the
owner prior to that time:

1984 Chrysler 5th Ave.
4Dr Red
1C3BF66P8EX577473

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DIRECTORY

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DISTRICT ELDER LUKE A. MCLENDON, PASTOR

Sunday { Sunday Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.)
Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)
Morning Worship Service (11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) }

Nursery Room Available for Children 4 Years of Age and Under

29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833

Sunday School 10A.M. - Service 11A.M.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30P.M.
Pastor Earl Duncan

Morningstar Church
28563 Pardo
Garden City, MI 48135
734-367-3029

Worship Directory

THE POWER OF THE WORD
WORSHIP CENTER
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Dr. Alfred D. Knight, Jr. Pastor
Dr. Judy D. Knight, First Lady

POWER OF THE WORD WORSHIP CENTER-CANTON
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
WALKER-WINTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
39932 MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUNDAY 1:00 pm - 2:30 PM

Dr. Alfred D. Knight, Jr., Senior Pastor - 24 hour Prayer Line (313) 935-PRAY
www.powerofthewordcogic.org.

ServiceMASTER Clean

CARPET STEAM CLEANING
\$39.00
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Free Hallway w/ any 3 rooms cleaned | ServiceMaster 6 step process.

COMPLETE CLEANING SERVICES - RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL
CARPET - UPHOLSTERY - RESTORATION SERVICES

* Room size over 250 sq ft. counts per room **734-697-9325**

60. Misc. Sales

MOVING SALE

Good variety of everything, cheap prices, everything goes.

1999 Escort
70,000 miles
\$3,950

1994 Cougar
130,000 miles
\$2,950

April 7/8/9 9:00-5:00
39100 Barth Rd.
Romulus, MI

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-814-6472.

BUILDING SALE! "Built To Last/Priced To Sell!" Economical all steel arch style. Best for wind/snow. Many sizes/shapes. Pioneer,

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Since 1980.
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FREE 4 - ROOM DIRECT TV SYSTEM Includes standard installation. 3 Months Free 50+ Premium Channels. Access to over 225 channels! Limited time offer. S&H. Restrictions Apply

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87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres Motel, low daily and weekly rates.

Refrigerator, microwave, HBO. Call 734-721-1220, Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100. Fairlane in Novi

248-347-9999

CANTON DAYS INN
Five Sunburst Rating!
Low Daily, Weekly, and Monthly rates.

Free deluxe breakfast
Guest Laundry
Microfridge in all rooms
All local calls free
Free High speed wireless internet.
40500 Michigan Avenue.
Exit 22 off I-275

734-721-5200

ROOM FOR
rent, Wayne,
\$85/weekly,
all utilities included.

Call 734-721-0232.

88. Duplexes For Rent

WAYNE
2225 Delton Ct.,
Wildwood/Palmer area 3
Bedroom, shed,
\$675/month, \$325 Security
Deposit

Call 734-522-1512

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
Call for list of
available 2 & 3 BEDROOM
duplexes, and single
family homes. Section
8 welcome. Lead safe
units available.
Professional full-time
management.

Norplex Associates
734-722-6444
EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

1 Bedroom efficiency
apartment in Wayne.
All utilities paid.
\$150 / week

Call: 734-729-5770

WAYNE
1 Bedroom
Fully carpeted, heat,
water, A/C, laundry on site,
window treatments, Quiet
Area

Section 8 ok.
\$565/month

734-459-4010

Wayne, MI
Quiet 1 Bedroom
Well maintained
Heat/water/A/C inc.
No pets
Great for singles &
retiree's
\$470/month

Call a manager @
734-729-2108
or owner @
734-878-0859

Wayne, Near Wayne Road
- Nice, Clean
1 Bedroom - Heat, Water &
Appliances included -
No Pets \$475 and up
Call: 313-561-9818
or 313-247-2075

96. Houses For Rent

INKSTER

3 Bedroom,
Fenced yard,
NO Pets

Call 734-729-0641 or
734-365-4889

INKSTER

Clean 3 bedroom, full
basement, near
Avondale/Middlebelt
\$700/month plus deposit

734-721-7378

INKSTER

Near school,garage,
Fenced, sec. 8 ok \$575

INKSTER

3 bedroom, basement,
Fenced
Option 2 Buy \$600

21 homes available
\$575-\$750

RENTAL

PROFESSIONALS

734-513-RENT

ROMULUS

3 bedroom bungalow,
Appliances, fenced, Option
2 Buy \$850

PLYMOUTH

Basement, garage,
Appliances, yard,
New windows \$700

RENTAL

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READERS!

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to place your ad.

WAYNE

Ranch, appliances, Shed,
fenced yard \$650

WAYNE

Garage, appliances,
Fenced 4 pets
Option 2 Buy \$780

All cities available

RENTAL

PROFESSIONALS

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WESTLAND

Spacious brick ranch, Air,
basement, Appliances
\$675

WESTLAND

3 bedroom, garage, Air,
appliances
Option 2 Buy \$750

20 Homes available
\$550-\$850

RENTAL

PROFESSIONALS

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106. Houses For Sale

House for Sale
or Lease Option Purchase
725 Sunningdale, Inkster
Sharp brick bungalow fea-
tures 3 bedrooms, full
basement, new kitchen,
new bath, new carpet, new
windows and many other
updates. Detailed flyer
available. \$104,700
Call 734-845-6174

113. Wanted Real Estate

We Buy Houses
Any Area
Any Condition

Call 1-888-297-8429

115. Autos For Sale

1986 Corvette Convertible
Indy Pace Car
60,000 Miles
Original owner!
Must sacrifice!
\$8,900

Call 586-212-1882

8C 2001 Lincoln LS
Excellent Condition
Loaded-Low Mileage
\$18,000

248-344-2174

117. Trucks & Vans

NEED A WORKHORSE?

1999 Ford F250 V10 4X4
Pick-up
Extended cab,
good condition
10,000 GVW towing
capacity
Full power-
\$9500

Call 734-753-9906
after 5:30

118. Freebies

2 Glass Top Wooden
matching end tables
\$50/pair

Call 248-640-0735

Entertainment Center
Dark wood 72"x30" \$35

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\$495/mo. Over 640 Sq. Ft. 1 Bedroom
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Central Air & Heat • Garbage Disposal
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to Metro Airport, Amtrak, Ford Village
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Short Term Lease Available.

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Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartment

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THE SCENE

'SIN'fully entertaining

Director, creator faithfully translate graphic novel to screen

Take a Dashiell Hammet novel, pump it full of steroids, chuck it out a 10th-story window and add a vat of blood and that just might scratch the surface of the hardboiled noir tale that Frank Miller's *Sin City* has to offer.

The new film from director Robert Rodriguez—the director who brought moviegoers the *Mariachi* and *Spy Kids* series—is probably the most visually stunning comic book adaptation ever made. Co-directed with Miller himself, *Sin City* is essentially a frame-by-frame remake of Miller's graphic novel series.

The two directors spliced together three of the novels: *Sin City*, *That Yellow Bastard* and *That Big Fat Kill* to offer fans a cinematic walk on the dark side.

Films such as *Dick Tracy*, *Batman*, *Spiderman*, *The Hulk* and even *Unbreakable* have all tried to obtain that genuine comic-book feel, each with its own style and accomplishments, but have fallen short. With *Sin City*, the genre will never be the same.

Audiences don't have to be comic book, or graphic novel, fans to enjoy the movie.

The film is primarily in black and white, which adds to the authentic noir feel. However, each frame, which seems like Rodriguez and Miller plucked right off the page of the graphic novel and pasted onto celluloid, is splashed with just a touch of color. It might be a head of blond hair, a pair of sparkling green eyes, a pair of red lips or splatters of blood, but color is there—just not everywhere.

The movie has three separate stories that are loosely connected by the acquaintance of some of the characters, all residents of Basin City. Basin is simply the

place where God washed his hands of all the evil in the world, leaving behind a city infested with criminals, hookers and cops that are just as corrupt as the streets they walk.

The first story involves Marv (Mickey Rourke), a hulking Band-Aid clad outcast misanthrope with a proclivity for nice coats, who swears vengeance on the person responsible for the death of Goldie (Jaime King)—his one true love.

Although they spent only one night together, Marv is overcome by his love for Goldie, who is a hooker running from some terrible evil, and vows to bring her killer to justice by his own means. And his means aren't pretty.

He overcomes the odds, which includes an army of cops and a maniacal cannibalistic killer (Elijah Wood), with the help of Goldie's twin sister (Jaime King again) and his parole officer (Carla Gugino). He takes care of the killer but evil always seeps its way down and his hunt sends him looking in a higher place.

The second story involves Dwight (Clive Owen), the clandestine love of Shellie (Brittany Murphy) who spends his night defending his former flame Gail (Rosario Dawson) and the rest of the Old Towne girls from Jackie Boy (Benicio Del Toro).

Jackie Boy is a loose cannon cop and former boyfriend of Shellie who still thinks they're a couple. Dwight persuades him otherwise. And that isn't pretty, either.

The outcome puts an end to the truce between the

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

See **SIN**, page 23

THE SCENE

New art gallery celebrates grand opening

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The brown paper blocking the view through the windows of the former Atrium Center Gallery in downtown Northville will come down this week, when the business reopens under new ownership as the Sherrus Gallery of Fine Arts.

The gallery—which will specialize in contemporary art—will celebrate its grand opening from 6:30-9 p.m. tomorrow.

New owner Sherri Mewha—who moved to the community more than three years ago—didn't start out as a gallery or shop owner. Instead, she worked in the corporate world as a senior vice-president and general manager for a large company.

"I'd been with them for 22 years, and I had done three trans-

fers in five years," said Mewha. "I was going to be transferred again if I stayed with my company."

In the end, Mewha said that she decided to leave her company and enter a new occupation in her adopted hometown.

"The gallery had actually been something in my mind—and in my husband's mind—for years," she said. "We've been collectors for a long time, so we had said that when we retired, that would be our retirement thing."

The name of the gallery was also decided years ago. Mewha said that in the first year of their marriage, she and her husband had decided that when they finally opened their gallery, they would combine their names (Sherri and Russ) to create the name.

Not everything went exactly as planned, though.

"My actual business plan when

I wrote it was to find side-by-side locations so that I could have an art supply store with a framing business and a gallery next door to it," she said.

However, no suitable site was found for her planned neighboring businesses, so she opted to focus on opening Awakening...the Artist Inside, an art supply store.

"I'm really glad it didn't work out that way because just getting (Awakening...the Artist Within) off the ground was a little more than I had anticipated."

After she signed her lease for the Center Street shop, Mewha said that she had approached the owner of the Atrium Gallery and told her that if she ever decided to sell her shop, Mewha would be interested in purchasing it.

"I knew her lease was going to expire in about two years, and I thought, 'OK, two years down the road, two-and-a-half years down the road—that would be just about perfect timing,'" said Mewha.

The call came earlier than expected, only about a year later.

"Everything just fell into place," Mewha said. "Right after she and I talked, we closed. It happened very quickly." The sale closed on Feb. 15, and by Feb. 16, Mewha had taken possession.

Since then, efforts to transform the existing space into the gallery of her dreams has encouraged Mewha, her family, and her staff to put in long hours to liquidate the existing stock, track down artists they wished to represent, and renovate the store itself.

The results will be unveiled from 6:30-9 p.m. tomorrow evening. The event will feature a wine, cheese, and dessert buffet as

well as a chance to meet many of the artists.

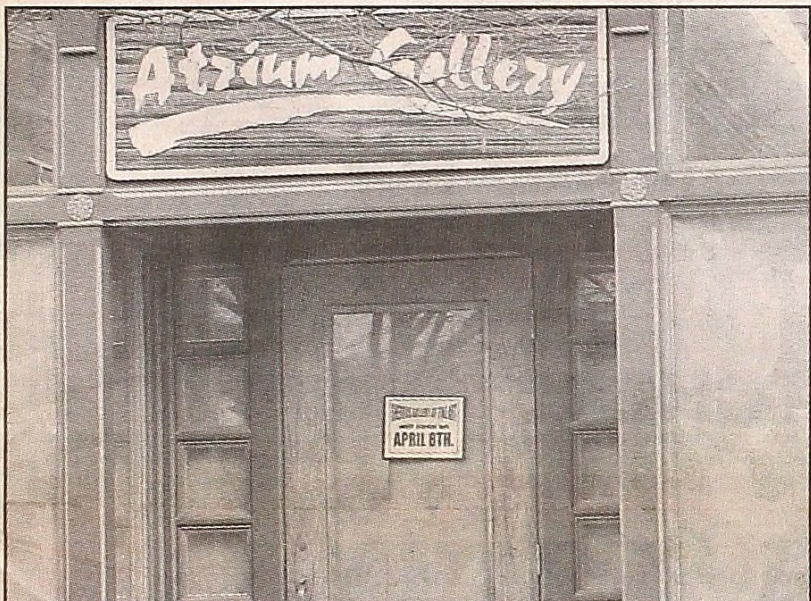
"It's working out perfectly," said Mewha. "We've found some amazing artists that we are going to be able to open up with. The goal is to offer contemporary art by established national and international artists, and emerging artists who are ready to make it on the global scene."

Artists from around the world will be represented, including D. Kessler—an American painter who has received five Presidential commissions—and sought after artist mixed media artist Brodinsky of Russia and Israel.

Some of the talent found closer

to home will be represented as well.

In addition to the art itself, the gallery will also offer an extensive custom framing business and on-site art consultation services. Like the art supply store, it will be staffed exclusively by artists.



The former Atrium Gallery in downtown Northville will have a new look and a new purpose beginning this week. Owner Sherri Mewha will unveil her new gallery, the Sherrus Gallery of Fine Arts at 6:30 tomorrow night.

SIN

FROM PAGE 22

Old Towne girls and the mob, resulting in a war between the two groups.

The final episode is about Hartigan (Bruce Willis), which actually begins the movie, who is one of the few honest and heroic cops left in the city. One hour before his forced retirement—because of a "bad ticker"—he sets out to save the life of 11-year-old Nancy from a murdering pedophile, who happens to be the son of Senator Rourke who is the brother of Cardinal Rourke.

Hartigan is successful in saving Nancy but is sent to prison by the senator.

Hartigan's long time partner (Michael Madsen) helps concoct the bad rap.

Eight years later, once he is out of jail, Hartigan finds himself having to defend Nancy (Jessica Alba) once again, this time from Yellow Bastard (Nick Stahl), a mutated version of the junior Rourke.

Although it would be great to say everyone lives happily ever after, that just wouldn't be the noir way.

The voiced-over, hard-boiled tough-guy lingo filled with colorful similes did get tiring after a

while and the 2 hours and 6 minutes did seem a little too long. But those would be the only negatives for the movie.

It only took me a few minutes before it hit me like a freight train in the night—I liked this movie. It was like a daisy growing out of a trash heap. It was beautiful.

Sorry, that was my ode to Miller's dialogue.

Sin City is definitely worth seeing. Rodriguez and Miller remain faithful to the look, feel and dialogue of the novels.

This film is an absolute must see for the cinematic achievements alone.

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FRI/SAT LS 11:55

BEAUTY SHOP (PG-13)
1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

UPSIDE OF ANGER (R)
(SAT/SUN 11:00) 1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS (PG-13)
(SAT/SUN 11:35) 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:20,
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

THE RING TWO (PG-13)
1:20, 3:50, 6:45, 9:05 FRI/SAT LS 11:25

ROBOTS (PG)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:10

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